

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7957

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 2387

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14101

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF STAFF ABOUT
LEBANON AND MINI-SUMMIT

1. AT CANADIAN AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION LAST NIGHT FOR VISITING
CANADIAN DEFENSE COLLEGE, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TALK WITH LTGEN
FAHMY. AS DEPT AWARE, IN ADDITION TO BEING EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF
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STAFF, FAHMY IS ARAB LEAGUE ASST SECYGEN FOR MILITARY AFFAIRS.

HE HAD ATTENDED AL FONMINS MEETING THE PREVIOUS EVENING. FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE OF INTEREST.

2. DECISION TO KEEP FULL SUMMIT SCHEDULED FOR IMMEDIATELY AFTER MINI-SUMMIT WAS AT PLO INSISTENCE. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN AND SAUDI FONMINS HAD SOUGHT TO OBTAIN INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT, QADDUMI DEMANDED SUMMIT TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER MINI-SUMMIT, REGARDLESS OF HOW LATTER DEVELOPS. PLO, FAHMY OPINED WITH SOME IMPATIENCE, WANTS A HIGH-LEVEL "PROPOGANDA" FORUM AND BELIEVES RETENTION OF FULL SUMMIT WILL BE ADDITIONAL PRESSURE DEVISE ON ASAD.

3. WHILE HE HOPED SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE MAY COUME OUT OF MINI-SUMMIT, HE WAS SKEPTICAL THAT THIS WILL BE THE CASE. HE DOUBTED THAT ASAD HAD CHANGED HIS OBJECTIVE TO FORCE THE PLO TO CAPITULATE ON HIS TERMS AND TO CHANGE ITS LEADERSHIP. ASKED WHY HE THOUGHT ASAD HAD AGREED TO SIX-MEMBER MINI-SUMMIT TO INCLUDE ARAFAT, FAHMY SUGGESTED "BAD INTERNAL SITUATION" HAD FORCED HIM TO GO ALONG. FAHMY NOTED CONSIDERABLE DISSENTION EXISTS WITHIN SYRIA ABOUT ASAD'S LEBANESE INVOLVEMENT.

4. AL SPECIAL MEDIATOR HASSAN SABRI AL-KHOLY'S MISSION IS BEING ABONDONED. DESPITE AL-KHOLY'S EFFORTS, NOTHIN HAD COME OF IT. HENCEFORTH, MG GHONAYM, HEAD OF AL PEACE-KEEPING FORCE, WILL DO WHATEVER INTER-PARTY CONTACT WORK MAY BE NECESSARY. HE WILL NOT, HOWEVER, ACT AS MEDIATOR. SITUATION IS SIMPLY NOT RIPE FOR SERIOUS MEDIATION EFFORT. IN FAHMY'S VIEW, LEBANESE PARTIES WILL NOT ARRIVE AT MEANINGFUL COMPROMISE UNTIL THEY ARE MUTUALLY EXHAUSTED AND THIS COULD STILL TAKE MANY MONTHS.

5. SEVERAL FONMINS (UNSPECIFIED) HAD AGAIN ARGUED AL PEACE-KEEPING FORCE SHOULD IMPOSE PEACE. FAHMY HAD MADE CLEAR THIS WAS NOT THE MISSION OF THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE. IT COULD ONLY ACT WHERE THE PARTIES HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES FOR CEASEFIRE AND ASSIST IN KEEPING IT. IF FONMINS WISH AL FORCE TO IMPOSE PEACE, HE WOULD GIVE THEM HIS REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCH A MISSION, BUT THEY SHOULD KNOW FAR MORE TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT WOULD BE NEEDED THAN NOW AVAILABLE. THIS HAD SCOTCHED FURTHER DISCUSSION OF ANY SUCH IDEA.

6. ABOVE WRITTEN BY AMBASSADOR BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THIS
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MORNING.
MATTHEWS

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